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10/568,431	10/16/2006	Koichiro Shoji	062094	9987
38834 7590 04/27/2009 WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP 1250 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NW SUITE 700 WASHINGTON, DC 20036				
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WRIGHT, BRYAN F				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/568,431

Applicant(s)

SHOJI ET AL.

Examiner

BRYAN WRIGHT

Art Unit

2431

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 1/5/2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 4-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 4-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/CDC)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

FINAL ACTION

1. This action is in response to Amendment filed 1/5/2009. Claims 1, 4-9, and 16 have been amended. Claims 2 and 3 are cancelled. Claims (1, 4-21) are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 1, 8, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Examiner contends applicant's newly amended claim limitation element of, **"to supervise the operation of an OS running on said computer"** is not supported by applicant's original disclosure.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3. Claims 1, and 4-21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mathiassen et al. (US Patent Application No. 2004/0123113 and Mathiassen hereinafter) in view of Deng et al. (US Patent Publication No. 2004/0267987 and Deng hereinafter) further in view of Cheng (WO 01/61692 (cited from IDS)).

4. As to claim 1, Mathiassen teaches a electronic data management apparatus comprising:

data storing means storing data [fig. 1b]; identification data storing means having identification data for authentication registered therein [fig. 1b];

input means for entering authentication information about a user [fig. 1b];
authentication means performing authentication of said user by comparing data entered from said input means with said identification data registered in said identification data
storing means (i.e., ... teaches providing increased security by bridging the functionality

of biometrics input from a user and, upon positive authentication of the user's fingerprint locally to provide secure communication with the said access-limited apparatus, device, network or system, whether local or remote further teaches a corresponding method of using the portable device or the embedded device is disclosed for providing a bridge from biometrics input to a computer locally [abstract]);

and interface means connected to an electronic computer to transmit and receive said data [fig. 1b];

where access to said data is permitted when said entered data and said identification data match each other as a result of said authentication (i.e., ... teaches upon positive authentication of the user's fingerprint locally to provide secure communication with the said access-limited apparatus [abstract]);

said electronic data management apparatus further comprising:

program storing means storing a control program [fig. 1b];

wherein after said user has been authenticated by said authentication means, said control program is installed in said computer to enable reading said data from said computer [abstract].

wherein after said user has been authenticated by said authentication means (abstract),

Mathiassen does not expressly teach the claim limitation element of:

program storing means storing a control program which is installed in said computer to allow a user to perform an operation by using said user data on said

computer and to supervise the operation of an OS running on said computer and the operation of an application program and switch control means selectively switching between said data storing means and said program storing means;

said electronic data management apparatus is unlocked and allows said computer connected thereto to start automatic recognition of said electronic data management apparatus, and said switch control means selectively switches said data storing means into said program storing means to enable reading said data from said computer.

However, these features are well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Mathiassen as introduced by Deng. Deng discloses:

switch control means selectively switching between said data storing means and said program storing means (to provide switch control means for selectively switching [fig. 6]);

said electronic data management apparatus is unlocked and allows said computer connected thereto to start automatic recognition of said electronic data management apparatus (to provide automatic recognition means (e.g., drive icon is immediately generated) for a USB apparatus plugged into a computer [fig. 6]), and said switch control means selectively switches said data storing means into said program storing means to enable reading said data from said computer (to provide switch control means for selectively switching [fig. 6]).

Therefore, given the teachings of Deng, a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have recognized the desirability and advantage of modifying Mathiassen by employing the well known feature of USB interface disclosed above by Deng, for which electronic data management will be enhanced [fig. 6].

The combination of Mathiassen and Deng does not expressly teach:

program storing means storing a control program which is installed in said computer to allow a user to perform an operation by using said user data on said computer and to supervise the operation of an OS running on said computer and the operation of an application program,

said program storing means is recognized by said computer, and said control program is installed automatically in said computer,

However, these features are well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Mathiassen as introduced by Deng. Deng discloses:

program storing means (e.g., computer) storing a control program (e.g., pre-installed) which is installed in said computer to allow a user to perform an operation (e.g. enter a password) by using said user data on said computer and to supervise (e.g., pre-installed software interfacing with the OS) the operation of an OS running on said computer and the operation of an application program (to provide storage means for a

control program used to interface with a computer's operating system for the purpose of communicating with USB devices [pg. 5, lines 20-25]),

said program storing means (e.g., USB) is recognized by said computer (to provide USB interface capability such that when the USB device is plug into a computer, driver software on the computer recognizes the USB device to establish communication with the USB plug-in [fig. 3, 20, 21]), and said control program is installed automatically in said computer (to provide for the capability to install a program from a USB device [pg. 7, lines 10-20]).

Therefore, given the teachings of Cheng, a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have recognized the desirability and advantage of modifying the combination of Mathiassen and Deng by employing the well known feature of pre-install programs for USB device communication disclosed above by Cheng, for which electronic data management will be enhanced [pg. 7, lines 10-20].

5. As to claim 2. (cancelled)

6. As to claim 3. (cancelled)

7. As to claim 4, Mathiassen teaches a electronic data management apparatus where writing to said data storing means can be performed from said computer (i.e., ... teaches the event is logged in the non-volatile memory of the IC [par. 136]), and a

history of handling said data on said computer or a history of operating said computer to handle said data is written to said data storing means by said control program (i.e., ... teaches to log all accesses for subsequent review [par. 122]).

8. As to claim 5, Mathiassen teaches a electronic data management apparatus where said identification data is fingerprint data, wherein fingerprint information about said user is entered from said input means and said authentication means performs fingerprint authentication of said user [abstract].

9. As to claim 6, Mathiassen teaches a electronic data management apparatus where said identification data is a registered personal identification number, wherein a personal identification number is entered from said input means and said authentication means authenticates said user by comparing said personal identification number with said registered personal identification number (i.e., ... teaches registration is performed by entering the name of the system administrator into the access administration table, as well as user ID, which may be the unique national identity number [par. 128]. Those skilled in the art would recognize inherent to the teaching of Mathiassen unique id and number is comparison authentication of such data).

10. As to claim 7, Mathiassen teaches a electronic data management apparatus where said authentication means has a mechanical lock and a key, so that said user having said key (i.e., user ID) is permitted to access said data (i.e., ... teaches the

matching of the access minutiae table does not match the stored master minutiae table of the user ID entered, then the locking pin of the locking mechanism [par. 137]).

11. As to claim 8, Mathiassen teaches a control program for use with an electronic data management apparatus, said electronic data management apparatus having:

- an authentication information storing area that stores registered authentication information [abstract];

- an input section for entering identification information about a user [fig. 1b];

- an authentication section having an authentication function of performing authentication of said user by comparing said authentication information and said identification information with each other (i.e., ... teaches upon positive authentication of the user's fingerprint locally to provide secure communication with the said access-limited apparatus [abstract]); a data storing area that stores data;

- and a program storing area that stores a control program [fig. 1b];

where when said electronic data management apparatus is connected to an electronic computer, said authentication section performs said authentication of said user, and upon completion of said authentication, said user is permitted to access said data storing area (i.e., ... teaches upon positive authentication of the user's fingerprint locally to provide secure communication with the said access-limited apparatus [abstract]);

where when an operation is performed on said computer by using said data, said control program operates said computer so as to store a history of said operation (i.e., ... teaches the event is logged in the non-volatile memory of the IC [par. 136]).

Mathiassen does not expressly teach the claim limitation element of:

program storing means storing a control program which is installed in said computer to allow a user to perform an operation by using said user data on said computer and to supervise the operation of an OS running on said computer and the operation of an application program and switch control means selectively switching between said data storing means and said program storing means;

said electronic data management apparatus is unlocked and allows said computer connected thereto to start automatic recognition of said electronic data management apparatus, and said switch control means selectively switches said data storing means into said program storing means to enable reading said data from said computer.

However, these features are well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Mathiassen as introduced by Deng. Deng discloses:

switch control means selectively switching between said data storing means and said program storing means (to provide switch control means for selectively switching [fig. 6]);

said electronic data management apparatus is unlocked and allows said computer connected thereto to start automatic recognition of said electronic data management apparatus (to provide automatic recognition means (e.g., drive icon is immediately generated) for a USB apparatus plugged into a computer [fig. 6]), and said switch control means selectively switches said data storing means into said program storing means to enable reading said data from said computer (to provide switch control means for selectively switching [fig. 6]).

Therefore, given the teachings of Deng, a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have recognized the desirability and advantage of modifying Mathiassen by employing the well known feature of USB interface disclosed above by Deng, for which electronic data management will be enhanced [fig. 6].

The combination of Mathiassen and Deng does not expressly teach:

program storing means storing a control program which is installed in said computer to allow a user to perform an operation by using said user data on said

computer and to supervise the operation of an OS running on said computer and the operation of an application program,

said program storing means is recognized by said computer, and said control program is installed automatically in said computer,

However, these features are well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Mathiassen as introduced by Deng. Deng discloses:

program storing means (e.g., computer) storing a control program (e.g., pre-installed) which is installed in said computer to allow a user to perform an operation (e.g. enter a password) by using said user data on said computer and to supervise (e.g., pre-installed software interfacing with the OS) the operation of an OS running on said computer and the operation of an application program (to provide storage means for a control program used to interface with a computer's operating system for the purpose of communicating with USB devices [pg. 5, lines 20-25]),

said program storing means (e.g., USB) is recognized by said computer (to provide USB interface capability such that when the USB device is plug into a computer, driver software on the computer recognizes the USB device to establish communication with the USB plug-in [fig. 3, 20, 21]), and said control program is installed automatically in said computer (to provide for the capability to install a program from a USB device [pg. 7, lines 10-20]).

Therefore, given the teachings of Cheng, a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have recognized the desirability and advantage of modifying the combination of Mathiassen and Deng by employing the well known feature of pre-install programs for USB device communication disclosed above by Cheng, for which electronic data management will be enhanced [pg. 7, lines 10-20].

12. As to claim 9, Mathiassen teaches a control program for use with an electronic data management where when said electronic data management apparatus is disconnected from said computer, said control program deletes said data transmitted into said computer (i.e., .. Those skilled in the art would recognize the automatic disappearance of program when apparatus becomes disconnected as applicant claims is merely inherent behavior of a USB connection. Examiner submits Mathiassen teaches USB connection [fig. 1b].

13. As to claim 10, Mathiassen teaches a control program for use with an electronic data management apparatus which incorporates an automatic disappearance program having a function of causing said control program to disappear automatically when said electronic data management apparatus is disconnected from said computer (i.e., .. Those skilled in the art would recognize the automatic disappearance of program when apparatus becomes disconnected as applicant claims is merely inherent behavior of a USB connection. Examiner submits Mathiassen teaches USB connection [fig. 1b]).

14. As to claim 11, Mathiassen teaches a control program for use with an electronic data management apparatus which has a function of becoming disabled from operating in said computer (i.e., .. Those skilled in the art would recognize the automatic disappearance of program when apparatus becomes disconnected as applicant claims is merely inherent behavior of a USB connection. Examiner submits Mathiassen teaches USB connection [fig. 1b]).

15. As to claim 12, Mathiassen teaches a control program for use with an electronic data management apparatus which has: a history obtaining function of obtaining at least one history selected from histories of duplicating, deleting, editing, viewing, reading and writing said data on said computer, or a history of files or new data created by using said data (i.e., ... teaches the event is logged in the non-volatile memory of the IC [par. 136]); a data recording function of writing said history to said data storing area (i.e., ... teaches the event is logged in the non-volatile memory of the IC [par. 136]);

and a transmission function of transmitting said history by using communication means (i.e., teaches copied to the database of the terminal (42) and optionally to a server of a network [par. 136]).

16. As to claim 13, Mathiassen teaches a control program for use with an electronic data management apparatus where said history is an operation history of operating from input means of said computer (i.e., ... teaches the event is logged in the non-volatile memory of the IC [par. 136]).

17. As to claim 14, Mathiassen teaches a control program for use with an electronic data management apparatus which limits a file system of said computer so as to permit only at least one operation selected from duplicating, deleting, editing, viewing, reading and writing said data on said computer by a specific application program or arbitrarily (i.e., ...teaches the IC is adapted to provide data to the external access-limited apparatus [par. 50]).

18. As to claim 15, Mathiassen teaches a control program for use with an electronic data management apparatus which runs in a kernel mode in which all instructions of an OS of said computer are executable (i.e., ... teaches a pre- processing block (SC) using hardware-embedded algorithms optimized for the laborious initial high-speed processing [par. 68]).

19. As to claim 16, Mathiassen teaches a electronic data management method using an electronic data management apparatus said electronic data management apparatus having: an authentication information storing section that stores authentication information [abstract];

an input section for entering authentication information about a user [fig. 1b];

an authentication section that performs authentication of said user by using data from said input section [abstract];

and a data storing section that stores user data (i.e., ...teaches extra storage capacity, the IC can be equipped with a USB mass storage class controller with at least one control endpoint and 2 bulk endpoints (in/out) in order to provide access to data onboard the portable device [par. 58]);

where when said electronic data management apparatus is connected to an electronic computer [fig. 1b], said authentication section performs said authentication of said user, and said user having said authentication information matching said authentication information registered in said authentication information storing section is permitted to access said user data (i.e., ... teaches upon positive authentication of the user's fingerprint locally to provide secure communication with the said access-limited apparatus [abstract]);

where said electronic data management apparatus has a program storing section that stores a control program, and upon completion of said authentication by said authentication means [abstract],

Mathiassen does not expressly teach the claim limitation element of:

program storing means storing a control program which is installed in said computer to allow a user to perform an operation by using said user data on said computer and to supervise the operation of an OS running on said computer and the operation of an application program and switch control means selectively switching between said data storing means and said program storing means;

said electronic data management apparatus is unlocked and allows said computer connected thereto to start automatic recognition of said electronic data management apparatus, and said switch control means selectively switches said data storing means into said program storing means to enable reading said data from said computer.

However, these features are well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Mathiassen as introduced by Deng. Deng discloses:

switch control means selectively switching between said data storing means and said program storing means (to provide switch control means for selectively switching [fig. 6]);

said electronic data management apparatus is unlocked and allows said computer connected thereto to start automatic recognition of said electronic data management apparatus (to provide automatic recognition means (e.g., drive icon is immediately generated) for a USB apparatus plugged into a computer [fig. 6]), and said switch control means selectively switches said data storing means into said program storing means to enable reading said data from said computer (to provide switch control means for selectively switching [fig. 6]).

Therefore, given the teachings of Deng, a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have recognized the desirability and advantage of modifying

Mathiassen by employing the well known feature of USB interface disclosed above by Deng, for which electronic data management will be enhanced [fig. 6].

The combination of Mathiassen and Deng does not expressly teach:

program storing means storing a control program which is installed in said computer to allow a user to perform an operation by using said user data on said computer and to supervise the operation of an OS running on said computer and the operation of an application program,

said program storing means is recognized by said computer, and said control program is installed automatically in said computer,

said control program is installed in said computer to ensure a use environment in which said data is used in said computer.

However, these features are well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Mathiassen as introduced by Deng. Deng discloses:

program storing means (e.g., computer) storing a control program (e.g., pre-installed) which is installed in said computer to allow a user to perform an operation (e.g. enter a password) by using said user data on said computer and to supervise (e.g., pre-installed software interfacing with the OS) the operation of an OS running on said computer and the operation of an application program (to provide storage means for a

control program used to interface with a computer's operating system for the purpose of communicating with USB devices [pg. 5, lines 20-25]),

said program storing means (e.g., USB) is recognized by said computer (to provide USB interface capability such that when the USB device is plug into a computer, driver software on the computer recognizes the USB device to establish communication with the USB plug-in [fig. 3, 20, 21]), and said control program is installed automatically in said computer (to provide for the capability to install a program from a USB device [pg. 7, lines 10-20]).

said control program is installed in said computer to ensure a use environment in which said data is used in said computer (to provide storage means for a control program used to interface with a computer's operating system for the purpose of communicating with USB devices [pg. 5, lines 20-25]).

Therefore, given the teachings of Cheng, a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have recognized the desirability and advantage of modifying the combination of Mathiassen and Deng by employing the well known feature of pre-install programs for USB device communication disclosed above by Cheng, for which electronic data management will be enhanced [pg. 7, lines 10-20].

20. As to claim 17, Mathiassen teaches a electronic data management method where said use environment is a limitation that permits access to said data only from a

specific application program that runs on said computer (i.e., ...teaches the IC is adapted to provide data to the external access-limited apparatus [par. 50]).

21. As to claim 18, Mathiassen teaches a electronic data management method where said control program has a function of leaving a history of operating from input means of said computer, or a history of access to said data in at least one operation selected from duplicating, deleting, editing, viewing, reading and writing operations using said data, or a history of files or new data created by using said data (i.e., ... teaches the event is logged in the non-volatile memory of the IC [par. 136]).

22. As to claim 19, Mathiassen teaches a electronic data management method according to claim 16, wherein when said electronic data management apparatus is disconnected from said computer, said control program deletes at least one of said data in said computer, duplicates of said data, and data or files created by using said data (i.e., .. Those skilled in the art would recognize the automatic disappearance of program when apparatus becomes disconnected as applicant claims is merely inherent behavior of a USB connection. Examiner submits Mathiassen teaches USB connection [fig. 1b]).

23. As to claim 20, Mathiassen teaches a electronic data management method where said control program incorporates an automatic disappearance program having a function of causing said control program to disappear automatically (i.e., .. Those skilled in the art would recognize the automatic disappearance of program when apparatus

becomes disconnected as applicant claims is merely inherent behavior of a USB connection. Examiner submits Mathiassen teaches USB connection [fig. 1b]).

24. As to claim 21, Mathiassen teaches a electronic data management method where said control program has a function of becoming disabled from functioning in said computer (i.e., ...Those skilled in the art would recognize the automatic disappearance of program when apparatus becomes disconnected as applicant claims is merely inherent behavior of a USB connection. Examiner submits Mathiassen teaches USB connection [fig. 1b]).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 4-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Examiner contends the teachings of prior reference Deng, provides selectively switching means between data and program storage means. Examiner further contends the teachings of prior art reference Cheng, provides for the capability to install programs from a USB device to a computer.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BRYAN WRIGHT whose telephone number is (571)270-3826. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5:30 pm Monday -Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, AYAZ Sheikh can be reached on (571)272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/BRYAN WRIGHT/
Examiner, Art Unit 2431

**/Ayaz R. Sheikh/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2431**